

classes. The pupil midwives trained in the Victoria Jubilee School, Quilon, are also being given a special course of training in maternity and child welfare. To afford better facilities for the treatment of labour cases, special labour and lying-in wards have been sanctioned for the District Hospitals of Nagercoil and Kottayam and the idea of the Government is to extend the provision of these special wards to the other chief mofussil hospitals as well. Provision is also being made for the allotment of separate rooms for use as pay-wards in the chief mofussil hospitals. A class for the training of compounders was opened in the General Hospital on the 1st Karthakam, 1937, and 40 pupils, of whom 5 are drawn from the depressed classes, are undergoing training there. Another noteworthy feature of the work of the department is the endeavour that is being made to introduce into the hospital pharmacopoea certain select indigenous drugs of proved value to replace the more costly imported drugs. The State Medical Code, published 25 years ago, has become far too out of date to suit present-day conditions of hospital administration, and this Code is therefore undergoing careful revision at the hands of the Darbar Physician. In the out-patient section of the Trivandrum General Hospital, arrangements have been made for the collection of valuable clinical data for high-class scientific work, and the Darbar Physician proposes to extend this system in course of time to some of the larger district hospitals in the mofussil. As promised by me last year, ten teachers employed in vernacular schools were given a course of lectures in hygiene and first-aid, and they have been posted as teachers in the ten Vernacular Training Schools of the State; and it is hoped that a working knowledge of the basic principles of hygiene will be disseminated by them among the pupil-teachers studying in those institutions. Lastly, a revised set of Rules will be shortly issued with the object of spreading the use of quinine in malarial tracts by bringing it to the door of the consumer. These Rules provide for the grant of a liberal commission to the salesmen with a view to induce them to push the sales vigorously. Orders have been issued for the reclassification, according to their importance, of the grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas of the State, which are now found to be 72 in number after the elimination of those that are vacant. This number will be worked up to 120 in course of time, giving one Vaidyasala for every 4 *pakuthies* on an average, besides 12 additional ones for towns. The grants to these institutions have also been enhanced, the minimum grant being raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.

39. Education.—It will be within your recollection that in the year 1933 Government appointed a mixed committee to examine the question of a separate University for Travancore and that that committee submitted an *ad interim* report proposing the establishment of a residential and teaching University of the unitary type. No further action was taken on the committee's report in view of the changes that were in contemplation in the constitution and administration of the Madras University as a result of the recommendations of the Sadler Commission. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai of our Legislative Council moved a resolution at the last meeting of the Council for the establishment of a separate University for Travancore, and on the assurance given by the Government that they would appoint a committee for re-examining the question, he withdrew that resolution. Now that the Madras University Bill which was recently passed by the Madras Legislative Council has become law, the consideration of the question of a separate University for this part of the country has become a matter of special urgency. Orders will shortly issue in regard to the appointment of the proposed committee and it is trusted that the deliberations and recommendations of the committee on this momentous question would help the Government to solve it in a manner conducive to the best advantage of the people.

40. The question of the admission of a larger number of students to His Highness the Maharaja's College has been engaging the earnest attention of the Government and a composite committee has now been appointed to ascertain and report how far this is feasible. Group II of the Intermediate course was opened in that College at the beginning of the current academical year.

41. The grant-in-aid institutions of the State have been allowed certain further concessions under the second set of orders passed on the Education Expenditure.

Committee's Report. The scheme for the medical inspection of pupils in recognised English schools for boys by qualified medical officers has been finally sanctioned and orders have been issued for its being brought into force from the beginning of the next school year. This scheme has been the subject of a certain amount of adverse criticism. Government do not claim perfection for the scheme and they are aware that it does not fully tackle the problem of medical inspection of school children. But they look upon it as a fair initial step, capable of further development as funds and circumstances permit.

42. As a measure of economy, the maximum number of pupils for admission to a division of the Preparatory Class has been raised from 30 to 35, and to a division of the other classes of English schools as well as vernacular schools, from 35 to 40. The period of the training of undergraduate teachers has been reduced from two years to one year, in pursuance of a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, and it is hoped that this measure would facilitate the output of a larger number of trained teachers who are now a desideratum in the State. Another mixed committee has been appointed to examine the Rules under which scholarships are now awarded in colleges and in English and vernacular schools and to make suggestions for their improvement. A liberal scheme of fee concessions to communities backward in point of education has also been sanctioned. The main features of this scheme are (1) the broad division of such classes into depressed and backward and a further classification of the latter into those backward in respect of vernacular as well as English education, and in respect of English education only; and (2) provision for the remission of full fees in the case of pupils belonging to the depressed classes and of half-fees in the case of those belonging to the classes specified as backward. As a result of the joint inspection conducted by the officers of the Land Revenue and Education Departments, it has been decided to throw open 13 more departmental vernacular schools to all classes of His Highness' subjects with effect from the beginning of the next school year. In regard to the compulsory teaching of English in vernacular schools, which was one of the proposals sanctioned by the Government in their Order No. 1034/21/L. and L. G., dated the 18th July, 1921, it has, on further consideration, been now decided that the scheme need be introduced only in schools within three miles of which there are no English schools, departmental or aided, and in which there is a *proved* demand for compulsory education in English, and that the necessary action need be taken even in respect of such schools only on receipt of applications signed by a large number of the parents and guardians of the pupils attending them. The new arrangement is expected to be brought into force at the beginning of the next school year. The department has begun to devote some attention to the removal of the overlapping of vernacular schools, and, as a result, superfluous classes in 19 departmental schools have already been removed and arrangements made for the closing of 13 aided schools. Cheaper type designs for the construction of Vernacular Middle Schools as well as English Middle and High Schools, have been sanctioned by the Government, and it is hoped that this will lead to the removal of a long-standing difficulty experienced by both the Government and the people in the construction of costly school-buildings. The system of partial recognition of ill-equipped primary schools has been abandoned in view of the decline in the number of such schools and the undesirability of fostering them. Orders have also been passed on the vexed question of Tamil education. It has now been ruled that all the Malayalam schools in the Tamil taluks of the State should be converted into Tamil schools as early as practicable, that the opening of private Tamil schools in those taluks should be encouraged and aided, that in all the Tamil schools Malayalam should be taught as a second language in classes III and IV, and that in special localities where there is scope for a Malayalam as well as a Tamil school both should be maintained, either separately or as different sections of the same institution. All the Tamil schools will henceforth be staffed by Tamil Certificate-holders, a special examination in Tamil being instituted to secure the services of the requisite number of qualified teachers. Government trust that these measures will go a long way towards the removal of the disabilities of the Tamil-speaking population of the State in the matter of the education of their children, of which bond

complaint have, for the past many years, been insistently heard in this Assembly. The final report of the committee for the revision of the curricula of studies in vernacular schools for boys has been received and it will be soon published in the Gazette.

43. Government have also issued final orders on the important subject of the curricula of studies for girls' schools. Under the new curricula now sanctioned, there will be eight compulsory subjects of instruction, *viz.*, language, arithmetic, nature study, needle-work, singing and games, which will be common to all classes, and geography and hygiene, which will be special to classes III and IV, in primary schools, besides two optional subjects, *viz.*, drawing and kindergarten. Provision will also be made, with effect from the next school year, for a separate course of study in subjects specially useful to women in His Highness the Maha Raja's High School for Girls.

44. Provision for imparting primary education to the illiterate convicts in the Central Prison was for the first time made in 1097, with the result that 112 casuals and 44 habituels have profited by such education till the end of Vrischikam, 1098. Inmates of the Reformatory School have also been permitted, under certain conditions, to learn a trade or an industry in some office or workshop outside that institution. A scheme for giving mofussil libraries the benefit of affiliation to the Trivandrum Public Library has been framed by the Honorary Secretary and submitted to Government with the opinions of the Library Committee and the Director of Public Instruction, and it is now engaging the attention of Government.

45. **Efficiency.**—The orders of the Government on the proposals of the Salaries Committee for improvement of salaries in the subordinate services have issued with a very few exceptions, and this opportunity has been availed of for reorganising and retrenching the staff of the various departments. The result is a net extra cost of Rs. 21,330½ per mensem, over and above the amount of scarcity allowance paid till then. All possible reductions consistent with efficiency have been effected and the figures appended below will show that the retrenchment knife did not spare the higher officers:—

Grade of staff.	Strength before reorganisation.	No. of hands reduced.	Percentage of reduction.	No. of hands newly appointed.
Gazetted staff ...	1,009	65	6.4	20
Executive subordinates ...	16,057	247	1.5	114
Ministerial staff ...	4,530	451	10	184
Menial staff ...	5,149	397	7.7	106
Total ...	26,745	1,160	4.3	424

It must be remembered that simultaneously with these reductions Government have had to create fresh departments and additional posts to meet the needs of a progressive administration, and the fact should not be lost sight of that, but for these new developments, the additional expenditure entailed by the improvement of salaries could have been kept much lower. Among the superior appointments abolished at the time of the reorganisation may be mentioned those of 1 Peishkar and 4 Tahsildars, 1 Deputy Conservator and 2 Assistant Conservators of Forests, 1 District Registrar, 1 Secretary and 1 Assistant Secretary to Government, the Vice-Principal, Training College, 2 Range Inspectors of Vernacular Schools, the State Geologist, 2 District Sanitary Officers, the Deputy Chief Engineer, 2 Executive Engineers and 4 Assistant Engineers. To avoid all possible hardship, none of the hands declared supernumerary were actually thrown out of service; they are being absorbed as vacancies occur in the several departments. As a parallel measure of relief, the emoluments of full-time servants paid from contingencies and of members of the work establishment of the Public